



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNCIL GIVES INITIAL GREEN LIGHT TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON COUNTY-OWNED LAND IN OLNEY

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The County Council today gave tentative approval to a provision in the Olney Master Plan that would open the way for construction for the first time of affordable housing on County-owned land.

The tentative action would rezone 32 acres on what is called the "Bowie Mill School Site" for the location of up to 117 housing units. The units, both townhouses and single-family detached, would be a mix of affordable, market-rate, and workforce housing.

The site, previously owned by the Montgomery County Public Schools, had been turned over to the County. The school system determined that the site was not large enough for a high school and that other MCPS sites were available, if needed, for an elementary or middle school.

"This is our first concrete step toward using publicly-owned land to encourage the creation of much-needed housing for County residents and, especially, for County public safety workers, teachers, and health workers," said Councilmember Steve Silverman, who has taken the lead in pushing to identify such sites throughout the County.

The Council will take final action on the entire Olney Master Plan in March.

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